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June Precipitation Over the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term June average:

Great Lakes Basin	93%
Lake Erie (including Lake St. Clair)	92%
Lake Superior	86%
Lakes Michigan-Huron	102%
Lake Ontario	77%

Note: These figures are preliminary.

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Lower Lakes Expected to Start Their Seasonal Decline

Lake Superior and St. Lawrence Boards Meet with the Public

Although water levels rose several centimetres during June on Lakes Superior, Michigan-Huron and St. Clair, their seasonal rises have started to ease and only small increases in levels are expected before these lakes begin their annual seasonal decline.

During June, Lakes Erie and Ontario water levels were fairly constant and these two lakes may have reached their annual peaks for the year. Levels on both lakes are likely to decline during July.

Lake Superior began July about 15 cm below its long-term average level for this time of the year. Lakes Michigan-Huron remain about 53 cm below average, but about 8 cm above Chart Datum. Lakes St. Clair and Erie started July below average by 27 and 25 cm, respectively, while Lake Ontario was just 4 cm below average. Montréal Harbour's monthly mean water level was 5.56 m in June, about 120 cm lower than the 1967-2000 long-term average for the month.

Lake Superior Regulation Review

In 1914, the IJC approved completion of hydropower development and the construction of a control structure in the St. Marys River at Sault Ste. Marie. The IJC's 1914 Order lists criteria and requirements governing the construction and operation of these works. It also established the International Lake Superior Board of Control to oversee Lake Superior outflow regulation. The IJC's 1914 Order has been amended several times. The last major revision was in 1979.

To determine if the regulation criteria are consistent with the current users, needs, and interests in the system, the IJC has decided to proceed with the development of a detailed plan of study to review the regulation of Lake Superior outflows. The IJC conducted three public meetings in June (including one on June 27th which coincided with the Lake Superior Board's public meeting) to solicit views and input from the public. Two more meetings are scheduled for early July. Information on this IJC initiative can be found on the IJC web site. Written comments may be provided to the Secretaries of the IJC

June Outflows From the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term June average:

Lake Superior 96%

Lake Erie 88%

Lake Huron 86%

Lake Ontario 83%

Note: These figures are preliminary.

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Summary information for "LEVEL*news*"

until July 27, 2001.

Public Meetings Held

The International Lake Superior Board of Control held its annual public meeting in Port Severn, Ontario on June 27th. Close to 30 people attended the evening meeting. Earlier in the day, the Board met with the Georgian Bay Association whose mission statement is to work to ensure the careful stewardship of the greater Georgian Bay environment and to promote the quiet enjoyment of its diverse and finite spaces. At the public meeting, the Board heard concerns about the continuing low water level conditions and their impacts on property owners, boaters and marinas as well as the impact of dredging activities on water quality.

About 40 people attended the International St. Lawrence River Board of Control's annual public meeting held in Kingston, Ontario on June 19th. The participants, representing many user groups (riparian, recreational boating, hydropower generation, commercial navigation, etc.) came from Lake Ontario and from along the St. Lawrence River from Kingston to as far away as Montréal. The meeting provided an opportunity for the Board and the participants to exchange information and views on the subject of water levels. More information on this Board and up-to-date information on Board activities, such as the Lake Ontario outflow strategy, can be found on the St. Lawrence Board's web site.

Lake Ontario Regulation

Water levels in the St. Lawrence River, including those at the Port of Montréal and on Lake St. Louis, have declined considerably during the past few weeks. The very low water level conditions there are not expected to improve. To provide relief to users in the Montréal region affected by the low water levels, the International St. Lawrence River Board of Control has decided to release some of the water it previously conserved on Lake Ontario. Beginning June 23rd, Lake Ontario outflows have been, at times when needed, slightly more than specified by the regulation plan to prevent very low water levels on Lake St. Louis. The Board's regulation strategy also permits short-term flow increases to meet critical hydropower or navigation needs. At the beginning of July, 6.6 cm of conserved water remained on Lake Ontario.

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